

CLAIMS

1. Applique for use at a pillar area of a vehicle, the applique comprising:

an injection molded substrate including nylon and propylene;

an injection molded flexible thermoplastic elastomer portion including at least

one flexible lip or leg for engaging a surface or edge of a vehicle window, and wherein said substrate and said thermoplastic elastomer portion are bonded together during injection molding step; and

wherein said thermoplastic elastomer portion and said substrate are of different materials having different hardness values which are selected so that the thermoplastic elastomer portion and the substrate are molded or bonded to one another during the injection molding step without a separate adhesive layer therebetween.

2. The applique of claim 1, wherein the lip or leg is for engaging a surface or edge of a vehicle windshield.

3. The applique of claim 1, wherein the substrate has a greater hardness or durometer than the thermoplastic elastomer portion of the applique.

4. The applique of claim 1, wherein said substrate includes a base portion and a protrusion extending from the base portion at an angle of approximately 90 degrees.

5. The applique of claim 4, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer portion includes an approximately U-shaped connection portion for attachment to an end or edge of the substrate.

6. Applique for use at a pillar area of a vehicle, the applique comprising:

a polymer inclusive substrate;

a polymer inclusive flexible thermoplastic elastomer portion including at least one flexible lip or leg for engaging a surface or edge of a vehicle window, wherein said substrate and said thermoplastic elastomer portion are bonded together; and

wherein said thermoplastic elastomer portion and said substrate are of different materials having different hardness values which are selected so that the thermoplastic elastomer portion and the substrate are molded or bonded to one another during the without a separate adhesive layer therebetween.

7. A method of making a vehicle pillar applique, the method comprising:

a) injection molding one of: 1) a polymer inclusive substrate, and 2) a thermoplastic elastomer portion;

b) in a subsequent injection molding step, injection molding the other of 1) said polymer inclusive substrate, and 2) said thermoplastic elastomer portion, to the one injection molded in step a); and

c) attaching the applique to a vehicle proximate a pillar area thereof.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer portion and the substrate are of different materials having different hardness values which are selected so that the thermoplastic elastomer portion and the substrate are molded or bonded to one another during the injection molding step b) without a separate adhesive layer therebetween.